

Docs baffled as poison spy fights for life



HEART FAILURE: Litvinenko is critically ill in hospital

■ by IAIN BURCHELL
POISONED ex-spy Alexander Litvinenko was on a life support machine last night after suffering heart failure.

Doctors treating the KGB defector, 43, said there had been a "major deterioration" in his condition and he was "critically ill".

His wife Marina rushed to his hospital bedside as it looked like he was losing his fight for life.

Medics at London's University College Hospital admit the cause of Litvinenko's illness is still baffling them.

But they have virtually ruled out the theory that the Russian exile was poisoned by thallium and believe radiation poisoning was "unlikely".

The hospital also played down reports an X-ray revealed three mysterious pieces of "dense matter" in his intestines.

Sources close to the case claim they may be an "antidote package" Litvinenko might have swallowed in a bid to save himself when he first fell ill.

Dr Geoff Bellingan, director of critical care, said: "We can confirm that there was a dramatic deterioration in Alexander Litvinenko's condition overnight and he is critically ill in intensive care."

Agent

"Suggestions that an X-ray identified three objects in his body are misleading."

"We are now convinced that shadowing on the X-ray was caused, as might be expected, by Prussian Blue - a non-toxic therapeutic agent which was administered as part of his treatment."

"We are now convinced that the cause of Mr Litvinenko's condition was not a heavy metal such as thallium. Radiation poisoning is also unlikely."

"Despite extensive tests, we are still unclear as to the cause of his condition."

"Our concern at the moment is to give Mr Litvinenko the best possible care available."

Litvinenko's close friend Alex Goldfarb confirmed that the former KGB colonel had suffered a heart attack and was on a ventilator.

He said: "He went into a cardiac failure overnight and the hospital put him on artificial heart support."

Litvinenko claims he was targeted because of his fierce criticism of Russian President Vladimir Putin.

His hair has fallen out, his throat is swollen and his immune and nervous systems have been ravaged by the mystery poison.

The Kremlin and Russian security services have denied any involvement.

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HURL POWER



HEN NIGHT: Hurley

LIZ HURLEY has asked fashion queen Donatella Versace to hold a private show for her hen do.

The Austin Powers beauty, 41, will marry Indian textiles heir Arun Nayar, 41, next year.

And A-list guests such as Victoria Beckham, 32, are expected to attend a lavish, no-expense-spared hen party.

A source said: "Liz wants Donatella to provide some dresses so her friends can choose stunning outfits."

Rock on, Pete



TO WED: Pete

BIG Brother winner Pete Bennett wants to marry in a Rocky Horror-themed ceremony.

Pete said: "I saw Rocky Horror the other day and something like that would be wicked. We could get all the bokes to turn up in dresses."

But Pete, 24, of Brighton, has not yet bought girlfriend Gemma Costin, 22, a ring.

He said: "I think she wants to get a tattoo instead."

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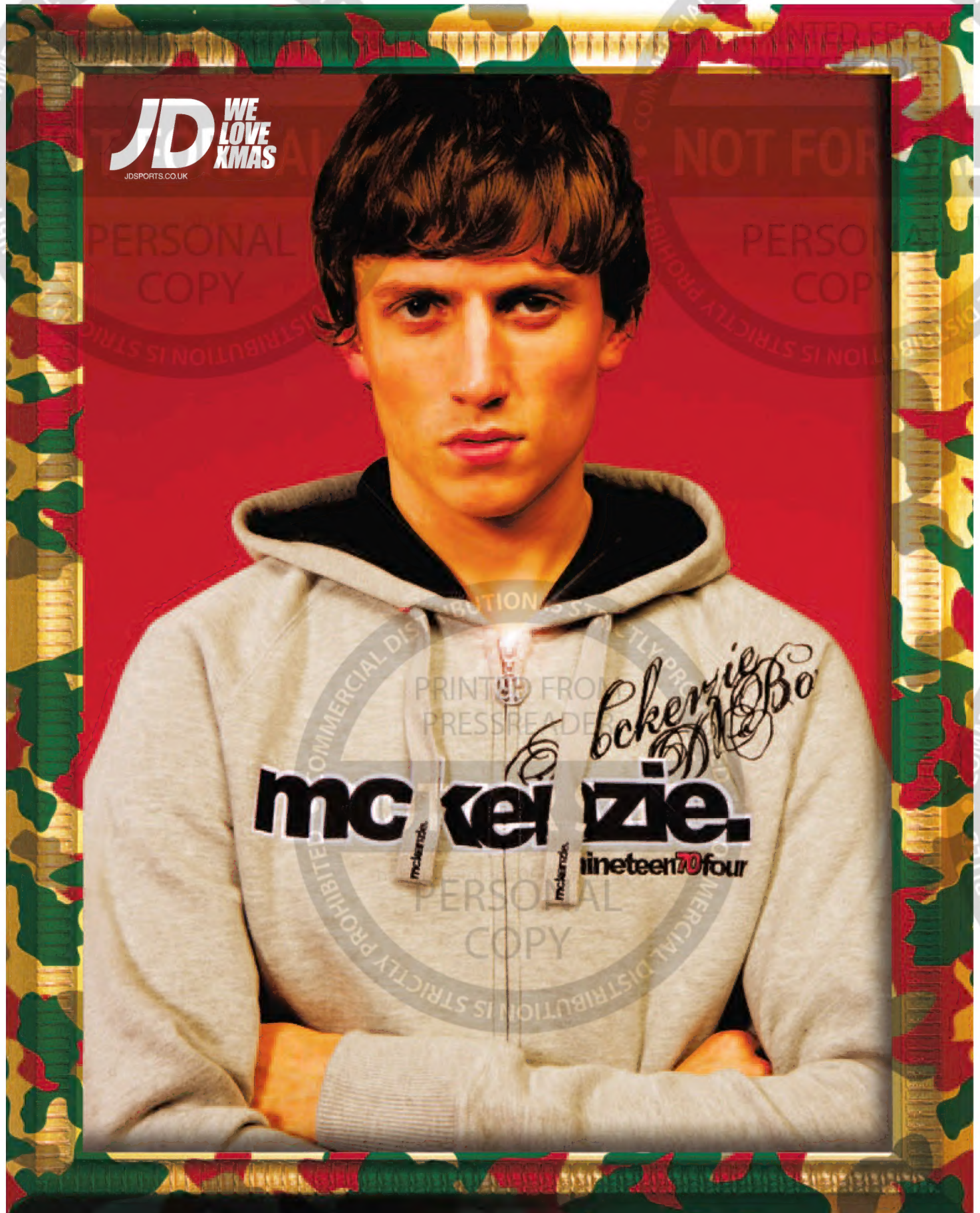
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Got fired - someone will die 2day



CALLOUS: Stopford



RANDOM VICTIM: Keith Russell

A TWISTED teenager murdered a complete stranger for kicks after sending the chilling text: "I got fired - someone will die 2day."

Daniel Stopford then bragged to pals: "I've done it! They don't call me Psycho for nothing."

Later, when asked by a relative if he had found a new job since being sacked from a petrol station, the evil 19-year-old replied: "Killing people."

Stopford was jailed for life yesterday after admitting the cold-blooded murder of Keith Russell, 66.

Mr Justice Henriques ordered him to serve a minimum of 21 years before being considered for release, adding:

"What you did was intentional, it was wicked, it was vicious and it was cowardly."

Manchester Crown Court

■ by **JOHN MAHONEY**

heard that Stopford trailed his target, who had been on a night out with friends, waiting for the right moment to strike.

He pounced as Keith left a pub to walk home in Denton, Gtr Manchester, stabbing him in the stomach with a knife and puncturing an artery.

Keith was found unconscious in the street last April and died in hospital.

Selected

After Stopford was caged for the murder, Det Chief Insp John Dineen told how the pensioner was selected to die completely at random.

He said: "Stopford was intent on killing someone that night. Keith was vulnerable and could have had no idea what was about to befall him."

"I hope the sentence brings his family some form of comfort."

john.mahoney@dailystar.co.uk

Spot the sponger

FUN: Mary and Paul

by CAMERON MILLAR
 WHAT are this pair of spongers up to? Well, one's earning a crust cleaning the windows of a Starbucks coffee shop in Hove, West Sussex.
 The other is Heather Mills, 38, taking time off from her divorce from Sir Paul McCartney, 64.
 Meanwhile, the Beatles legend looked relaxed as he met daughter Mary, 37, for breakfast in London, inset.

Pictures: CONNORS / MATRIX

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Mob had Becks Beamer

■ by TOM WORDEN
A LUXURY car stolen from David Beckham in Madrid has been found during a police raid in the Balkans.

Detectives say the BMW X5 was smuggled out of Spain and driven to Macedonia.

The 4x4 was seized in a swoop on a people-trafficking gang near the Macedonia-Albania border.

Auction

A spokesman for Beckham said: "When we hear from the authorities we will deal with it accordingly."

Police in Macedonia said the car could be sold at an auction if he does not collect it.

The former England captain, 31, has had two BMW X5s stolen in the Spanish capital since moving to Real three years ago.

The last one nicked was fitted with a tracking system - but it wasn't switched on.

COPS CUT CRIME

MORE bobbies on the beat in London after the July 7 terror attacks led to a "significant" drop in crime, say experts.

Couple get hate e-mail after complaint to builders



FURIOUS: David Williams and Nick Heyes

Dear Mr Gays, hope you are unhappy with your new loft

A GAY couple who complained about their new loft were sent a torrent of homophobic abuse.

An e-mail reply to electronics engineer Nick Heyes and his partner David Williams started: "Dear Mr Gays."

It went on: "I hope you are very unhappy with your loft as I cannot stand benders and neither can anyone who works for us."

And referring to ITV show Builders From Hell, it went on:

■ by JOHN MAHONEY

"Please get us on TV asap." The pair had complained to Luxus Lofts that the nine-week £33,000 attic conversion had been dogged by problems and wasn't finished.

Police

Furious Nick, 41, and systems developer David, 38, have called in police over the message.

Last night David, from Didsbury, Manchester, said: "This is bigotry of the worst kind

and it's just not right. Whoever wrote this e-mail should not be allowed to get away with it.

"Something like this is completely unacceptable.

"The company should hold an investigation to see who is responsible for sending this."

Luxus Lofts is based in Manchester and a number of contractors have access to its e-mail account.

Yesterday the firm repeatedly declined to comment.

john.mahoney@dailystar.co.uk

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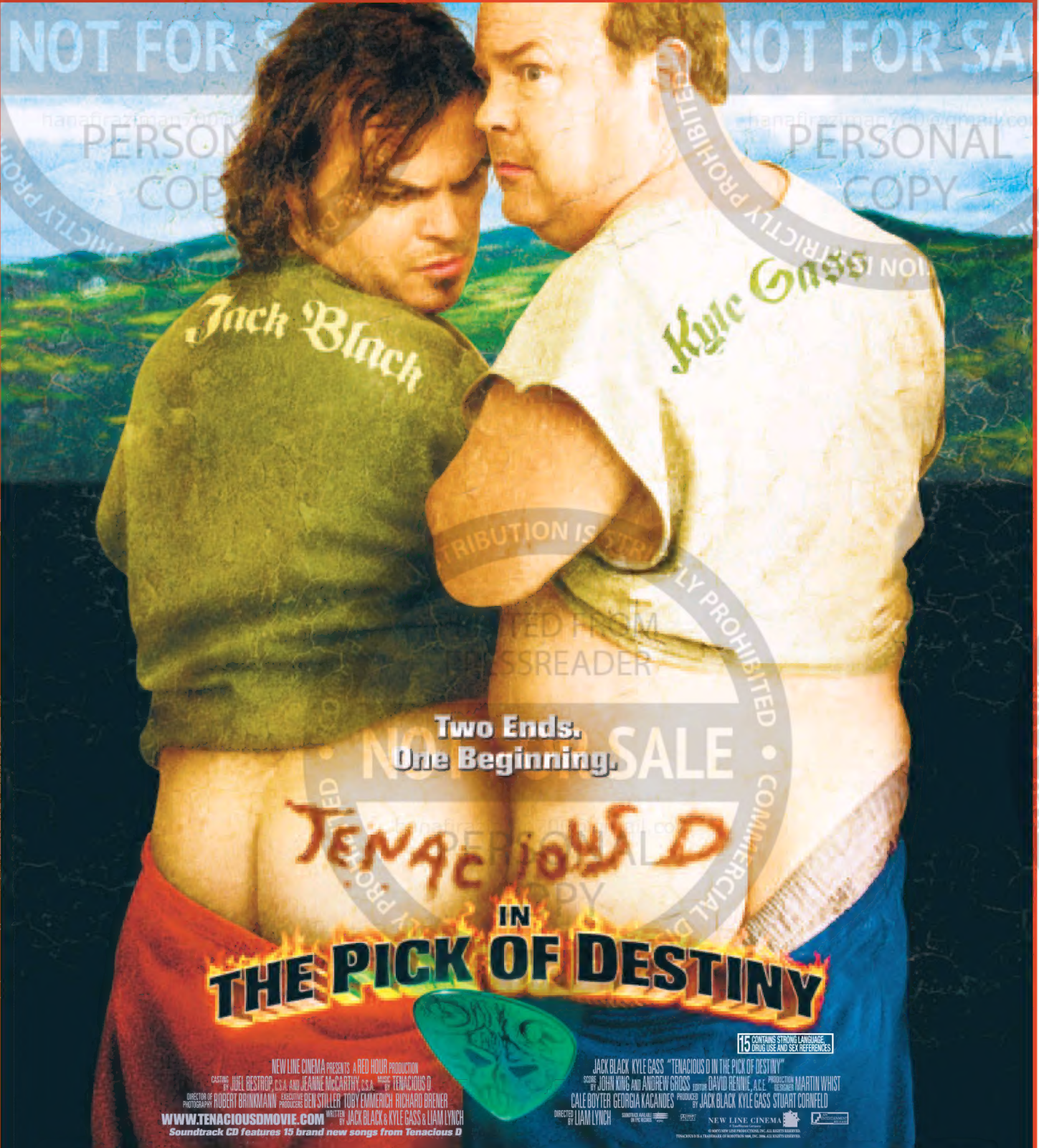
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Lily snaps over pic

ANGRY **Lily Allen**, 21, has launched a stinging attack on NME despite coming third in their annual cool list – and it's all over the choice of cover picture. Five women in the top 10 were asked to pose for a pic, but she said: "We got another f---ing Muse cover, because the NME thought their readers might not buy a magazine with an overweight lesbian and a not particularly attractive looking me on the front. W***ers."

JOE MOTT'S DOUBLE AWARD WINNING HOT



ON FIRE:
Chili front-
man Tony hit
form despite
broken toes

Red hot agony!

RED Hot Chili Peppers singer Anthony Kiedis hobbled off stage in agony at their XFM London gig.

The long-haired frontman was in a terrible mood after breaking two of his toes in New York ahead of the show. But even with their charismatic leader at less than 100%, the Chilis put on an unforgettable show, with some of the music coming close to sexual. Opening up with Can't Stop and Dani California, the lads immediately made it clear to all in attendance that they had walked on stage with every intention of com-

CAUGHT LIVE

TONY PLAYS OFF THE PAIN

mitting both funk and rock, in equal measure. The crowd, perhaps a little subdued at times, weren't to know Big Tony, 44, was suffering a wounded foot.

Concern

A source at London's Roundhouse venue told me: "The band weren't in the best of moods before the gig, due to Anthony's toes hurting. There was concern that they were

going to have to pull out, but Anthony said he was up to a short set."

I took a friend, who was gobsmacked by the big sound created by just four blokes.

At one stage, the ever-entertaining **Flea**, 44 – sporting skintight jeans and nothing else – appeared to be laying down a harmonic-bass groove, while axeman **John Frusciante**, 36, coaxed semi-organic wailings from his weapon.

Celebs including **Chris Evans**, 40, **Emma Bunton**, 30, and **Sarah Harding**, 25, sung along to Give It Away and Californication, but I must admit the lack of an encore was saddening.

It was also apparent that Anthony didn't really want to be there and he gave off a slight feeling of a man going through the motions with his half-hearted pogoing.

Still, bloody good though.

CAUGHT LIVE

Muse
WEMBLEY, LONDON

ARE **Muse** the greatest band in Britain at the moment? Emphatically so. Their Arena show was triumphant.

A glorious head-spinning collision of the awesome funk of **Prince** and **Napalm Death**'s disabling heaviness – and that was just the opening track. Derided as pale

Radiohead clones when they emerged at the end of the millennium, vocalist **Matt Bellamy**, sticksman **Dom Howard** and bassist **Chris Wolstenholme** are now surely one of the most musically adventurous bands on the planet.

Wagnerian in its scale, a Muse live show has to be seen to be believed. Bellamy, 28, windmills and shrieks, skids and howls, while teasing deafening riffs from his axe, as Wolstenholme and Howard give resolute backing. Scintillating on-screen visuals and dazzling lighting add to the gloriously disorienting spectacle.

CARL STROUD



RIFF JUSTICE: Bellamy

MIKE Skinner's paranoia got the better of him when he shared a restaurant with a man he assumed to be **Gordon Brown**. The Streets man said: "I look over the room, and I only spot Gordon Brown – the future king of England."

"He's sitting there, minding his own business, sucking spaghetti up. Then I got to thinking there's gonna be major SAS in the room. Trained killers with guns, but we would never know they were there. It was only later I realised he was actually John Prescott. I am a know-nothing tw•t."

MOTT
TAKE That will be flying around the country courtesy of the RAF next week. The lads are doing signings to promote their new album and Hot girl Kim Dawson will be flying with them. I don't envy her, but many will.

Cold War winners

COLD War Kids sparked the biggest record label bidding frenzy I've ever witnessed earlier this year.

The quartet from California were eventually snapped up by V2 after every single label threw wheelbarrow-loads of cash at them.

They are going to be sizeable. Very sizeable indeed.

Debut album Robbers And

Cowards creeps out next February and has found itself locked on the Hot stereo for the past week.

It's a disarmingly brilliant long player – fit to burst with classic songwriting dynamics referencing **Bob Dylan**, **The Velvet Underground** and more in between.

2007 will belong to them. You read it here first, folks.

MOTT
DAVID Gilmour is releasing his recordings of three Syd Barrett songs. The EP – Arnold Layne – is first released as a download on December 25, and then on CD a day later. My dad knew Syd. Good anecdotes, you can imagine.

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CAT'S A MONSTER

WHAT A WHOPPER:
The lads proudly
show off Carl's
massive catfish



Beginner Carl lands record fish

■ by JAMES FIELDING
BRIT fisherman Carl Smith takes the strain after landing this massive 226lb catfish - a new European record.

The monster catch capped a hat-trick of whoppers for Carl who had already netted ones weighing in at 206lb and 208lb earlier in the day.

What makes his feat even more incredible is that the 45-year-old had never gone catfishing before.

Jaws

He and pal Dave Jones battled the 8.5ft long beast for more than half an hour and went through 80 yards of line before they finally triumphed.

The catch - nicknamed Jaws - was so big it took two grown men to get it out of the water on to the bank and three of them to pick it up and put it on scales.

Dad-of-three Carl, from Oswestry, Shrops, landed the monster on a week-long fishing trip with pal Dave to Mequinenza, in the northeast of Spain.

He had a few snaps taken just to prove it really wasn't a tall tale.

Carl said: "I suppose it was a case of beginner's luck but I couldn't believe the size of it when we managed to pull it ashore."

"When I first got the bite I thought I had caught a whale. It was absolutely massive."

"It must have taken over half an hour to bring it ashore and afterwards my hands were covered in blisters."

The world's biggest catfish weighed in at 646lb when it was caught in Thailand two years ago.

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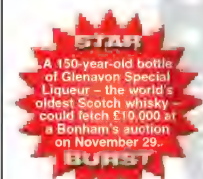
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Woe for Whitney

WHITNEY Houston's house has been repossessed after she failed to make mortgage payments.

The £730,000 Atlanta mansion was auctioned off on the steps of the Fulton County Courthouse.

Whitney, 43, and estranged husband Bobby Brown, 37, reportedly defaulted on mortgage payments and the five-bedroom house was put up for sale after being seized by the courts.

Last week she denied reports her £3 million New Jersey home was to be repossessed.

Whitney filed for divorce last month and wants custody of their daughter Bobbi Kristina, 13.

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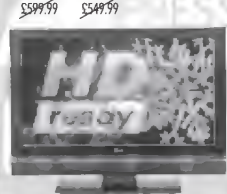
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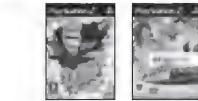
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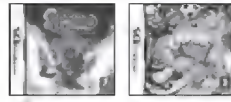


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BEST: From left, Hepburn, Hanks and *Gone With The Wind*. Below, *The Italian Job*

THE

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ROUGH STUFF: Sci-fi action romp *The Matrix* was voted best fight sequence

THE perfect film would feature Tom Hanks with Monty Python jokes and *Matrix*-style action.

There would be dance moves by screen god Gene Kelly and the romance would be as hot as *Dirty Dancing*.

That's what movie fans reckon would make the best film of all time.

Classic

Saving Private Ryan star Hanks, 50, screen legend Robert de Niro, 63, and Pulp Fiction star Samuel L. Jackson, 57, each polled 16% in the internet vote for best leading man.

Breakfast At Tiffany's icon Audrey Hepburn was top female, while Halle Berry, 40, took 12% and Angelina Jolie, 31, just 8%.

Clark Gable's immortal: "Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn" in 30s classic

by NADINE LINGE

Gone With The Wind was voted the best movie line.

Eighties classic *Dirty Dancing* was most romantic film. And when it came to action, a fifth chose the White House being blown up in *Independence Day* as their favourite explosion.

The top fight was tie between Rocky III, Indiana Jones And The Last Crusade and *The Matrix*, while the Mini sequence from *The Italian Job* was voted best car chase ever.

The survey of 2,000 film fans for MSN Movies also placed the Monty Python gang in the movie wish list.

A big 23% of voters said the "I'm Brian and so is my wife!" scene from *Life Of Brian* was the funniest.

Best dance sequence was Gene Kelly in *Singin' In The Rain* from 1952.

Films & DVDs reviews: Pages 44-47

nadine.linge@dailystar.co.uk



SCREEN DREAM: From left... *The Life Of Brian*, *Dirty Dancing* and *Singin' In The Rain*

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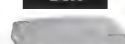
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CHILLING: A CCTV image of the tot's pram, right, on bridge, left



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FILMS

Pages 44-46

& DVDs

Page 47

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REMORSE: Angela Schumann arriving at Hull Crown Court yesterday

Suicide note on belly

A MUM jailed for leaping off a bridge with her two-year-old tot in her arms has told how she prays her daughter will one day forgive her.

Angela Schumann, 28, was depressed after custody of her toddler Lorraine was granted to her estranged partner Julio Nava.

She wrote: "Cause of death - Julio" across her stomach, before pushing the tot on to the Humber Bridge, scaling a safety barrier and leaping 100ft into the

by JERRY LAWTON

water below with Lorraine in her arms. The pair survived the fall, but Schumann spent two months in hospital.

Forgive

At Hull Crown Court yesterday Schumann was jailed for 18 months after admitting attempted murder.

Her lawyer Steven Garth said: "The defendant hopes that in time her daughter will understand and forgive her for what happened."

jerry.lawton@dailystar.co.uk

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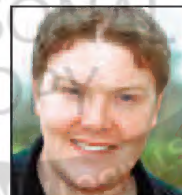
Picture: DAVE NELSON

HOLLYOAKS

GORGEOUS Gemma Merna, 22, right and fellow blonde Emma Rigby, 16, gladly flashed the flesh on the catwalk to raise cash for the NSPCC. The Hollyoaks babes glammed it up in the skimpiest of sexy frocks.



Paddy's love life given a lift



VET Paddy Kirk has a passionate snog with troubled Toni Daggett when they get stuck in a lift.

The pair have been fighting their feelings for each other following the chip fat accident that has left Toni (Kerry Stacey, 29) scarred for life. But next week they will be thrown together when their lift breaks down while they are out shopping.

Dominic Brunt, 36, who plays Paddy, said: "Most blokes wouldn't complain

about being stuck in a lift with a gorgeous girl. But Paddy's claustrophobic, so he totally freaks out."

However, their time trapped in the lift gives them the chance to reveal their feelings for each other. And it's not long before the pair are locked in a steamy clinch. Paddy is determined to help Toni get her confidence back after the accident.

And he buys her an expensive dress to wear on their next date. But it

means Toni is forced to show her scars.

Dominic, above, added: "It causes another argument but Paddy has an ace card up his sleeve and all might not be lost this time. "It works because the pair end up snogging!"

But their romance won't last because Toni leaves the soap in January.

EMMERDALE

SAD LES HITS THE BOTTLE!

LAYABOUT Les Battersby hits the bottle in despair when wife Cilla packs her bags and walks out on him.

And his New Year misery gets worse when stepson Chesney tells him he doesn't love him and moves out too. Lonely Les sinks into a booze-sozzled depression that sees him slumped in front of the telly endlessly supping lager.

Fling

His world spirals downwards when gobby Cilla decides she cannot forgive him for his one-night fling with her best chum Yana Lumb (Jayne Tunnicliffe, 38).

At first it is down to Les (Bruce Jones, 53) to look after cheeky Chesney. But as he drinks the days away the lad has to sort

CORONATION ST.

out the cooking, washing and ironing. And his sister Fiz Brown (Jennie McAlpine, 22) goes berserk.

She tells Chesney (Sam Aston, 13) to move in with her so he packs his bags.

And Fiz taunts Les: "You're a rubbish dad. Well, you're paying for it. There's no way Chesney is moving back in with you."

The Daily Star told how Les is made to sit in a tub of mushy peas on Christmas Day by Cilla (Wendi Peters, 38) as punishment for his fling.

But even after that she cannot fully forgive him and decides on a split.

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BOOZY: Les Battersby

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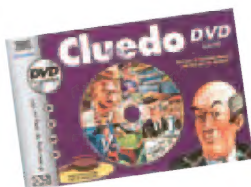
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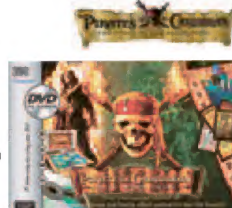
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hot OASIS SPECIAL STRAIGHT-TALKING SUPERSTAR



OUR KIDS: Liam and Noel with current band-mates Andy Bell, left, and Gem Archer

My drugs

YOU think of Oasis and you think of big tunes, punch-ups and massive drug usage.

The tunes are all present and correct on current chart-assaulting greatest hits album *Stop The Clocks*, and the brothers are still scrapping – so that just leaves the drugs.

Luckily, a certain Mr Noel Gallagher isn't shy when it comes to talking about the illicit produce that helped fuel his most creative years.

And – despite being off the naughty stuff for more than eight years – the big Manc only has good things to say about narcotics.

Even though his teeth started falling out and he found people he hated sitting in his front room.

In fact, he takes great pleasure in ripping the mickey out of today's crop of rockers for failing to handle their nose candy without seeking out help.

Noel, 39, says: "You read all these stories now of rock stars going into rehab. Someone must take them to one side at some point and say: 'Look, I think you're going off the rails and you might want to go to The Priory or something.'

"To start with we were off the rails before we got a record deal!

"That's the difference between the working classes and the middle classes.

"The middle classes experiment with drugs and the working classes just get stuck in. Forget experimenting with them, let's just get them done."

And get them done he did. "We kind of arrived in London hammered," he confesses.

"We were just out of it and like 'let's 'ave it!' It's never been a problem for me and Liam.

"It fascinates me that out of all the people we hung out with the only two people who haven't been in rehab is me and Liam.

Drink

"Why would you go to a hospital to pay somebody four grand an hour to tell you things that really you should already know yourself?"

Certainly, Noel had the strength to leave that tempting powder behind him without the help of men in white coats.

He explains: "I'm free of drugs, now, eight-and-a-half years.

"When you say that to people you sort of half expect a round of applause but I don't think there should be anything like that.

"Where we come from in Manchester, that was just the done thing and I've never had a problem with it.

"The only thing that is bad about drugs is that you drink more and that eventually messes you up, I think.

"If there were gold medals for taking drugs for England then I'd have won a shit load!

"I did enjoy it but it kind of got to the point where I'd done them all and that was it, there was none left and I just thought: 'Can't be arsed any more.'

"How it's been portrayed in the past is that I kind of just stood up at a party and went: 'And this shall be my last line, after this there will be no more!'

"We were at a party one night and then I got up one day and thought: 'I can't be bothered today.'

"Then one day turned into a week and that turned into a month, then that into a year – I kind of then just enjoyed not being out of it all the time.

"As that state of mind took hold I would go out with the people I was surrounded with at the time, I'd be sitting there thinking: 'I don't even like you, your bird's an idiot. What you doing in my front room? Get out of here.'

"In the end everybody kind of

No, fant



BROTHERS IN ARMS: Liam and Noel have always had a love-hate relationship

By JOE MOTT

left the party, if you like, and left to get on with life I guess.

"You've got to be strong-willed to say it and vanity also plays a big part in my life – my teeth were falling out and all sorts!

"Nobody wants to look like a weirdo, you know what I mean?"

"You don't look good and everything was revolved around getting hammered.

"I don't want this to sound like 'my drugs hell' because it wasn't hell, it was fantastic and I had

some of the me nights out and me in ever."

Noel grew up in Manchester, and went to school with his brother Liam, who broke into bicycles.

As a teenager he became a roadie for Inspiral Carpets. There he began

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